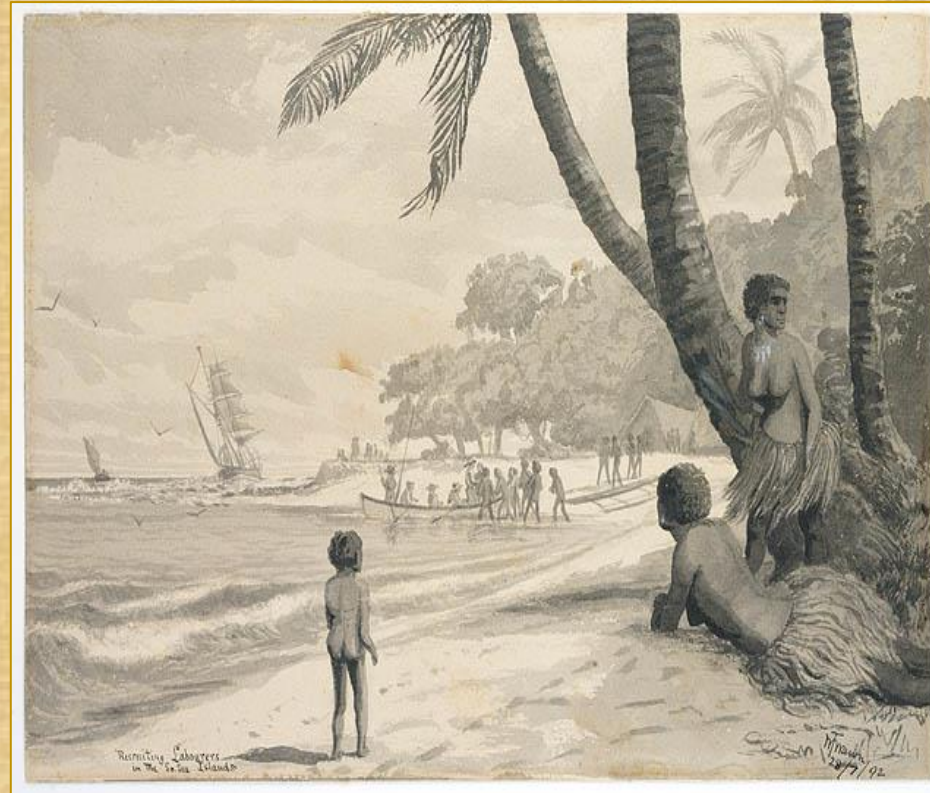


Visual Album on Blackbirding



Francis C Bryard

October 2022

Cover engraving: painting by W. T, Wawn, 1892, electronically reworked by Helen Stacey Bunton

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To quote this article: Francis Bryard: *Visual Album on Blackbirding*, Port-Vila, Vanuatu, 2022, 63 pages.

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List of abbreviations

NLA	National Library of Australia
SLA	State Library of Queensland
NSW	New South Wales
SLNSW	State Library of New South Wales
SANC	Service des archives de Nouvelle-Calédonie

Introduction

This album of visual resources has been designed to be used by history and social science teachers as part of the curriculum redesign and to address the subject of Blackbirding. It consists of 57 visual representations (photographs, engravings and electronic facsimiles from primary sources) and essentially covers Australia, New Caledonia, Samoa and Fiji.

One of the aspects of this period that is particularly interesting is the abundance of primary sources coming mainly from the Australian archives which have been doing a tremendous amount of work to publish these sources for over ten years. Visual records of New Hebridean workers in New Caledonia, Samoa or Fiji are much rarer and generally correspond to a history often repressed by these countries.

Most of the documents published here come from the Australian National Archives, or the Queensland or New South Wales State Archives. For New Caledonia, the photographs are all taken from Dorothy Shineberg's book *New Hebridean Indentured Labour in New Caledonia, 1865-1930*, which is, to date, the only serious reference work on this issue and this territory.

Francis C Bryard

October 2022.

1. Maps of itineraries

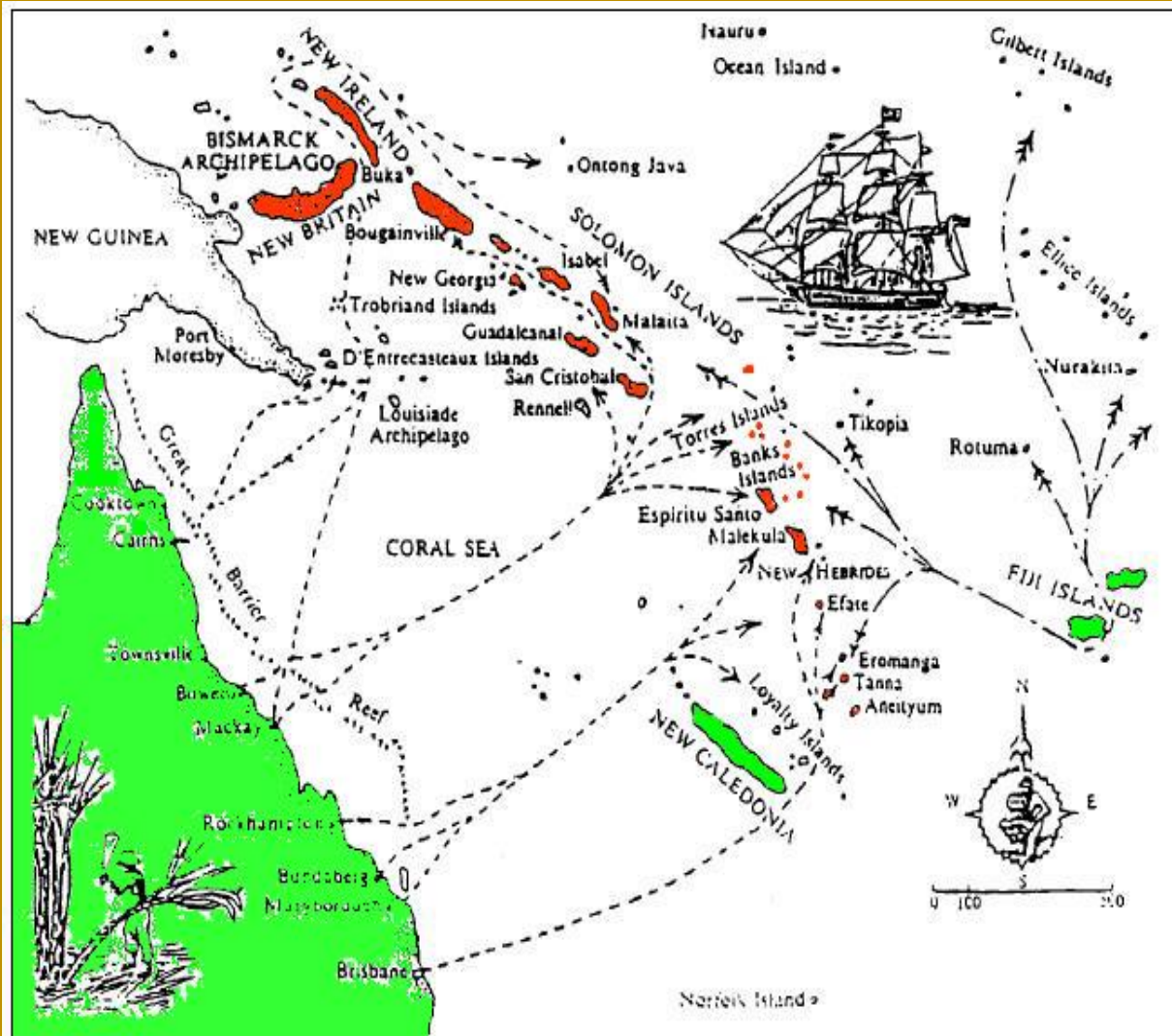
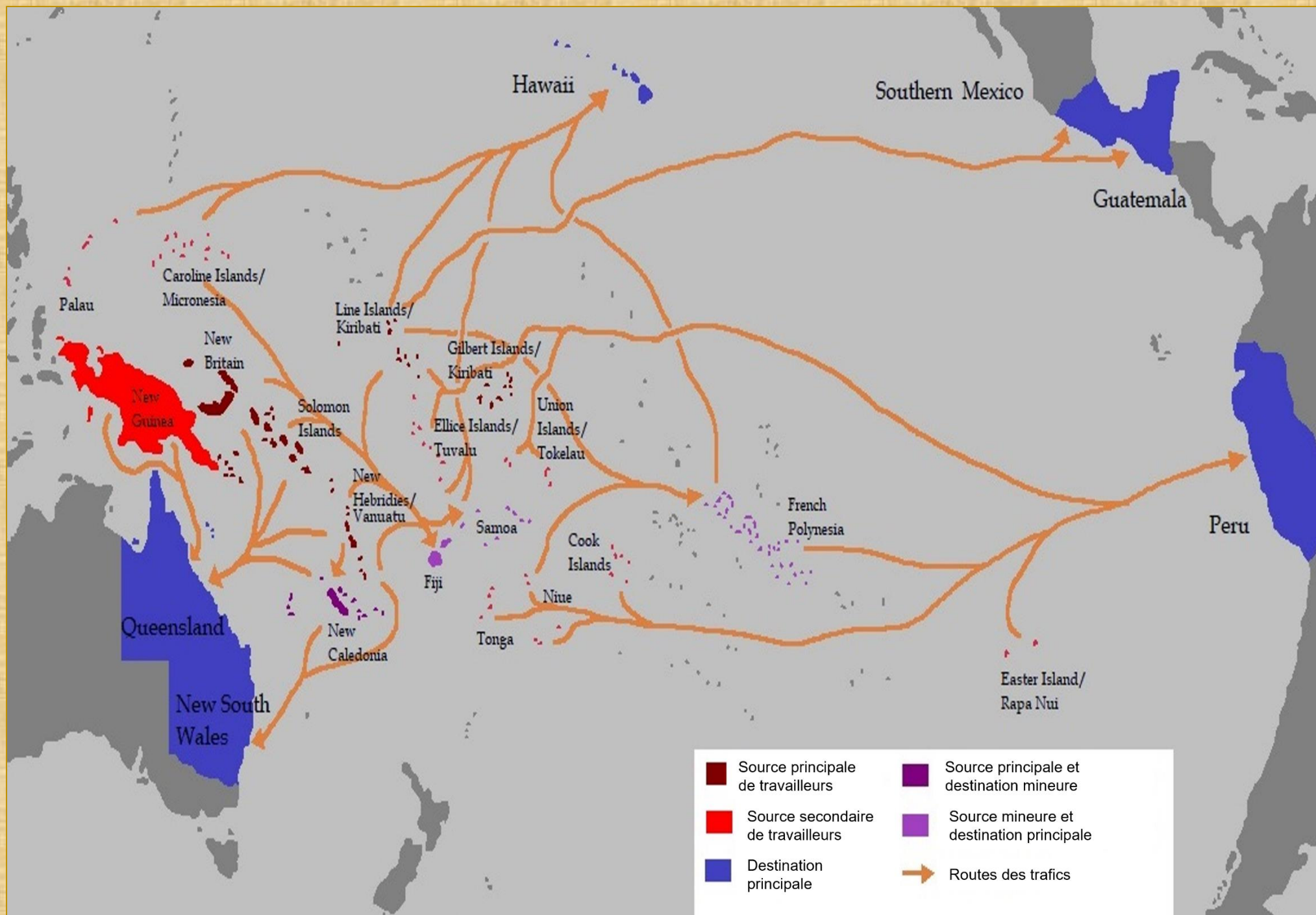


Image 1. Recruitment itineraries in Melanesia, ASSI, 2019



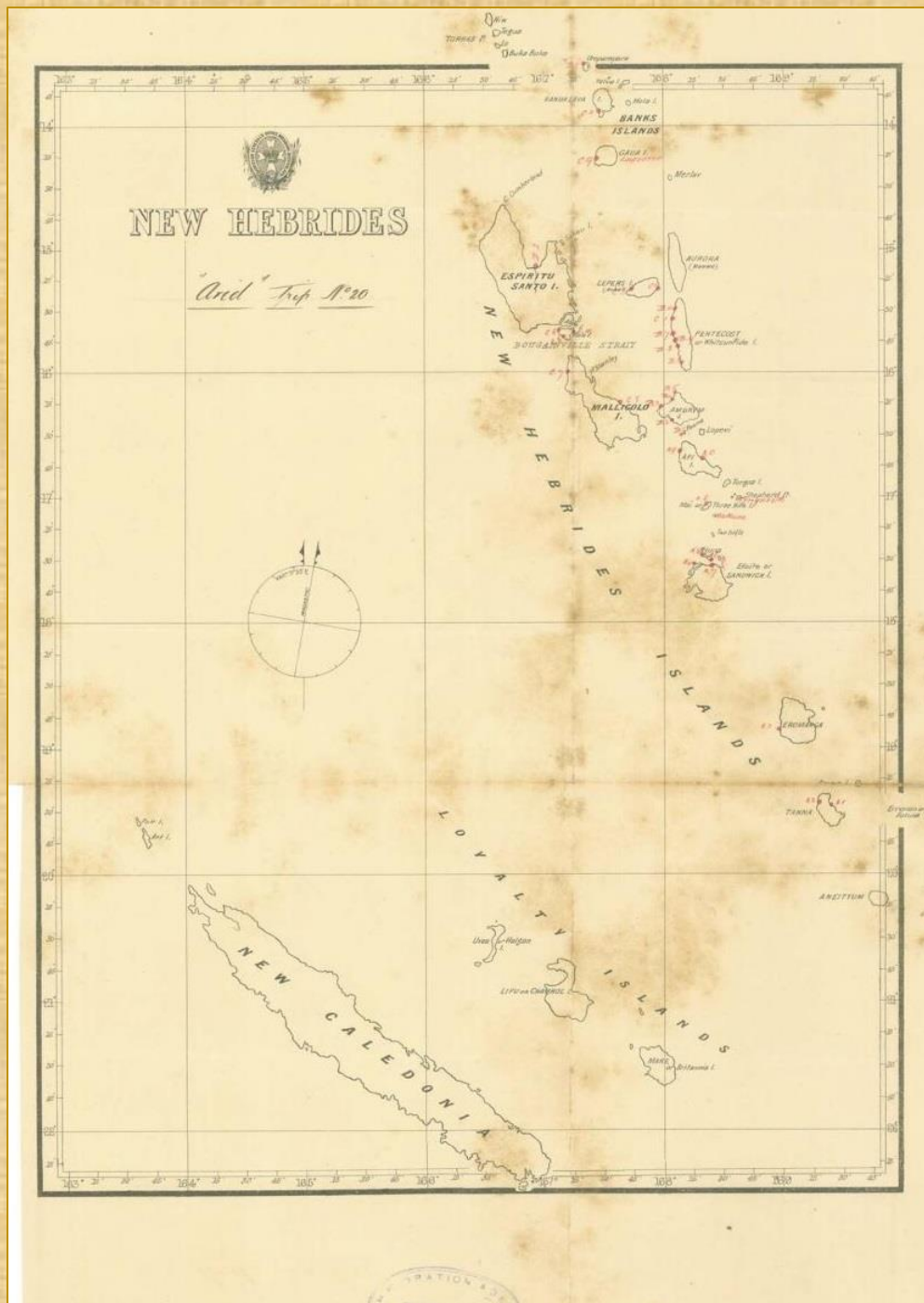


Image 2. Itinerary of the recruiter Ariel, 1893, NLA

2. Kidnapping and recruitment

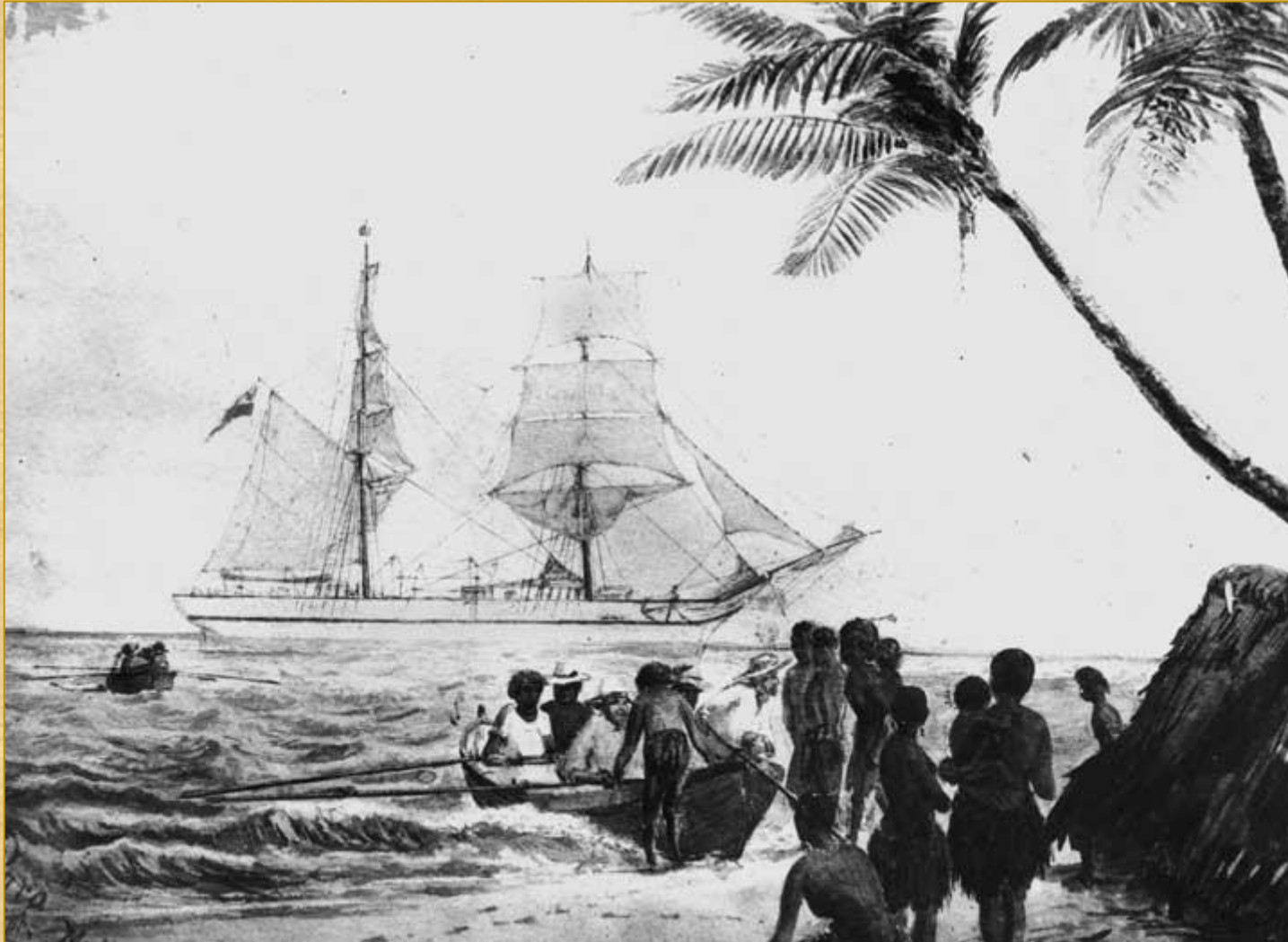


Image 3. The Para, recruiting, engraving by Wawn, circa 1890, SLQ

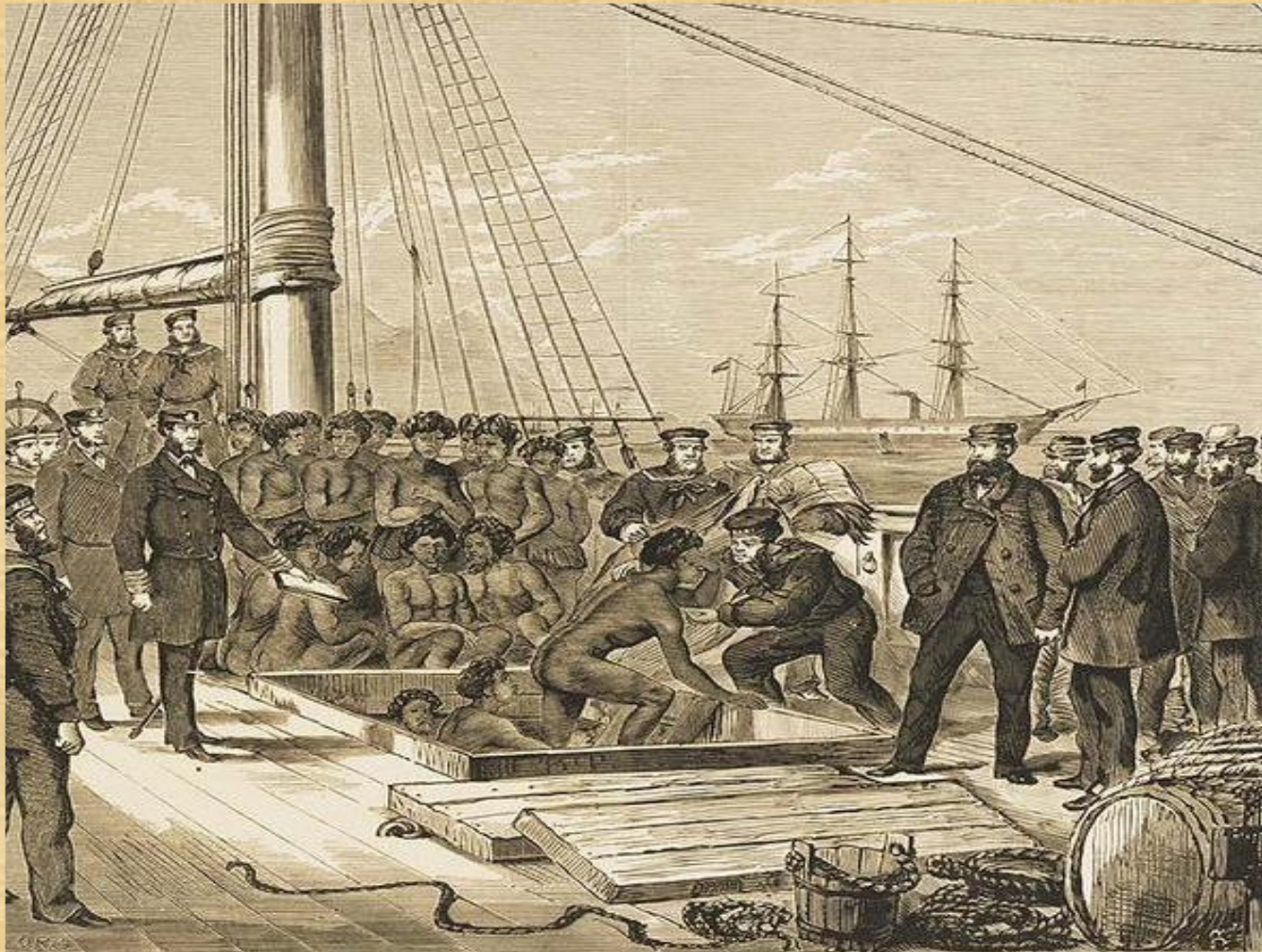


Image 4. Seizure of the Daphne, 1869, engraving, NLA

In 1869, HMS Rosario detained the Daphne, and found 108 New Hebridean workers on board, transported in squalid conditions.

Inspection of the Daphne's logbook revealed that pages were missing and that no specific information about these workers had been recorded.

The Rosario seized the Daphne and took on board the recruits to bring them back to the New Hebrides.

The case was highly publicized in Australia but was dismissed by the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

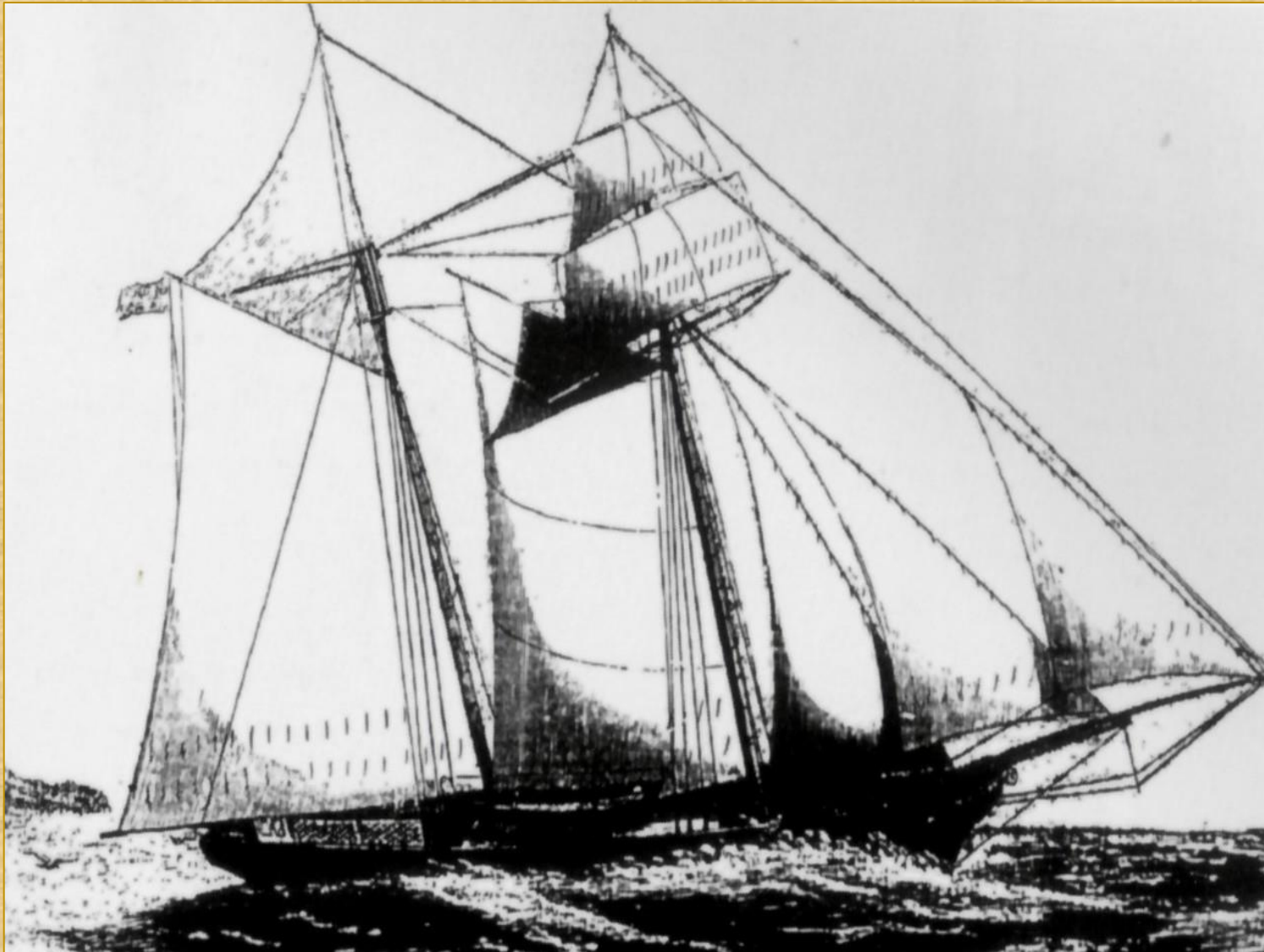


Image 5. The Daphne, Illustrated Sydney News, Wollongong Library



Image 6. Engraving from the Picturesque Atlas of Australasia, Volume 3, 1886/1888, SLNSW



National Library of Australia

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Image 7. The Young Dick, recruiting in 1884, Malekula, NLA



Image 8. Recruitment circa 1890, Malekula, Mitchell Library



Image 9. The Sydney Belle bringing workers into Australia in 1900, SLQ

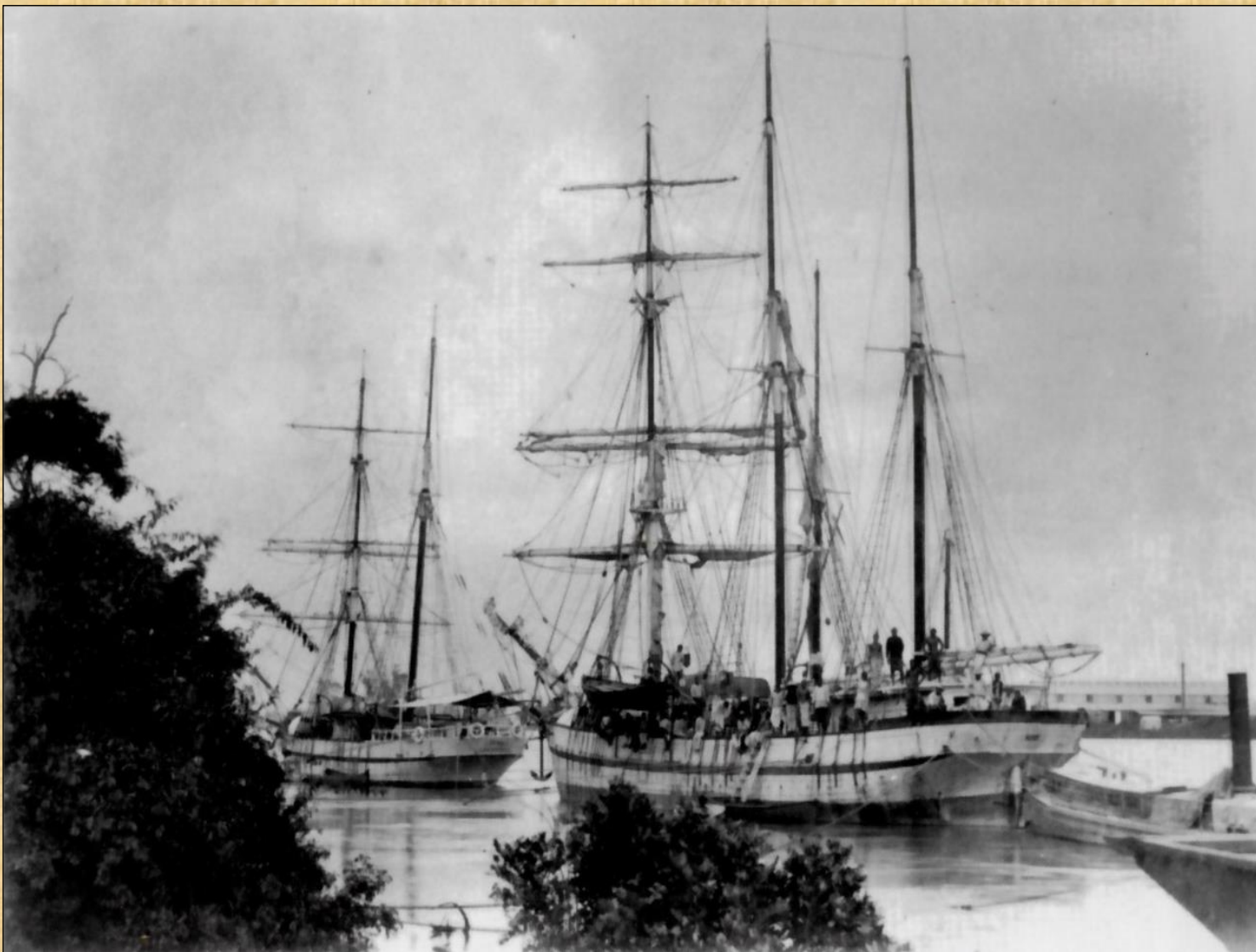


Image 10. The Helena and the May in Bundaberg with new recruits, 1893, John Oxley Library

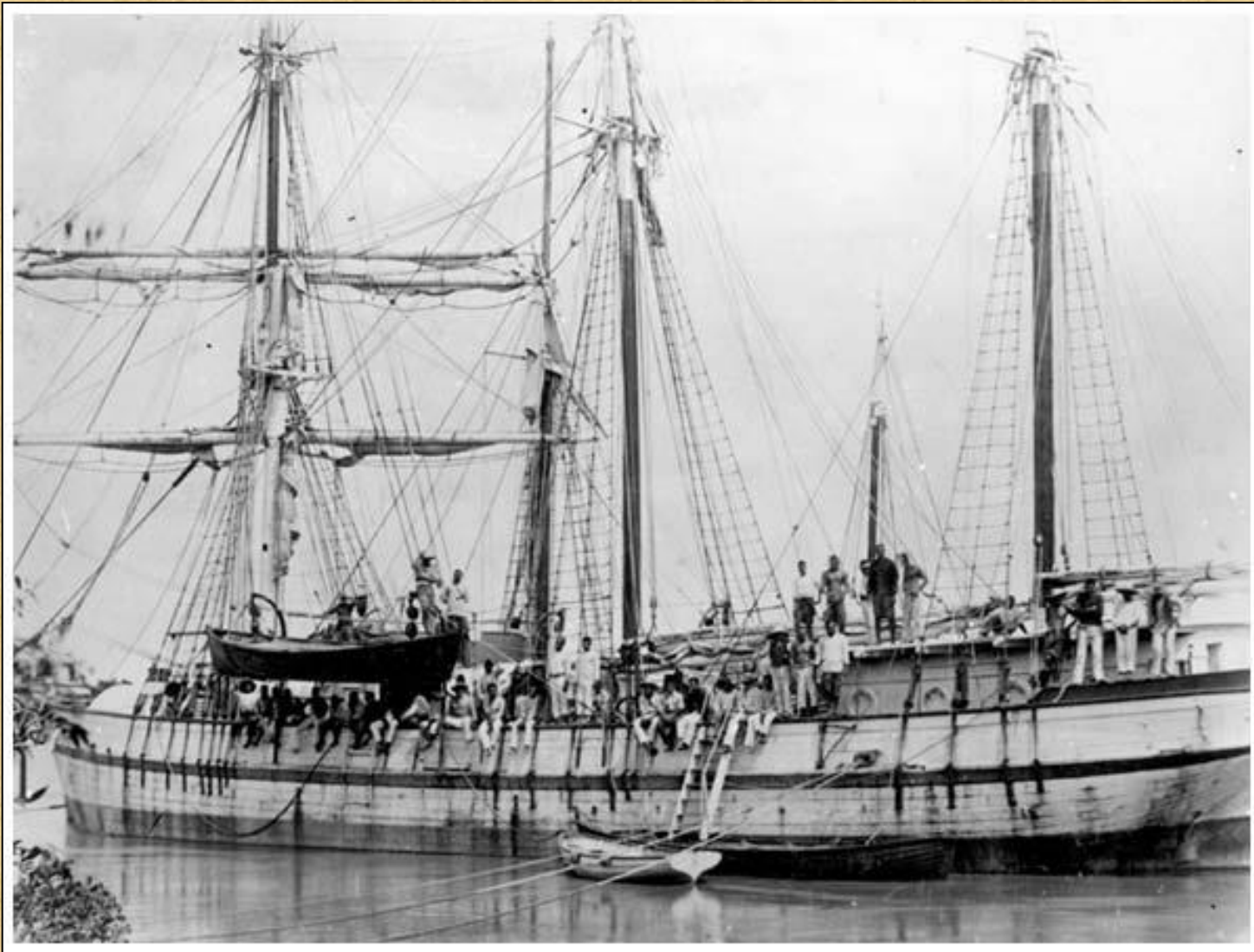


Image 11. Arrival of a recruiter in Bundaberg, 1893, John Oxley Library



Image 12. Workers onboard the Fearless, circa 1890, NLA



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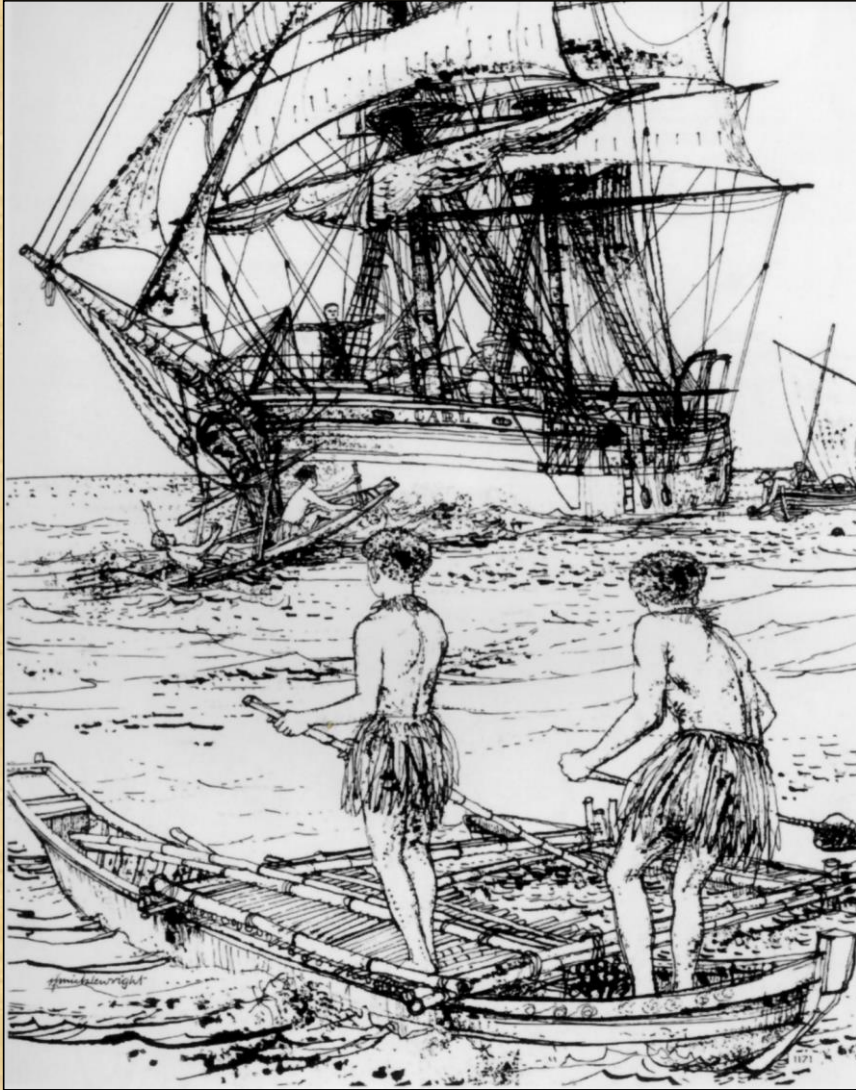


Image 16. *The Carl*, Australian Heritage, Wollongong Library

The *Carl* case is probably one of the worst cases of this period. In July 1871, the *Carl* recruits by force in Epi, Paama, Tanna, and Malekula, then leaves for the Solomons and Buka: the recruits trying to mutiny are murdered. 40 killed are thrown into the sea along with the wounded. The *Carl* leaves for Epi to drop off Dr Murray and the other survivors are sold to Fiji.

The perpetrators of the massacre were condemned in 1872 to sentences ranging from life imprisonment to fifteen years in prison. Most of these sentences were later reduced. Murray, who had participated in the massacre but had denounced it, was not incriminated.



Image 17. The Carl massacre, Illustrated Monthly Herald, 28 December 1872, NLA



Image 18. Island Pigs for guns in Tanna, 1870, William Wawn: Among the Pacific Islands

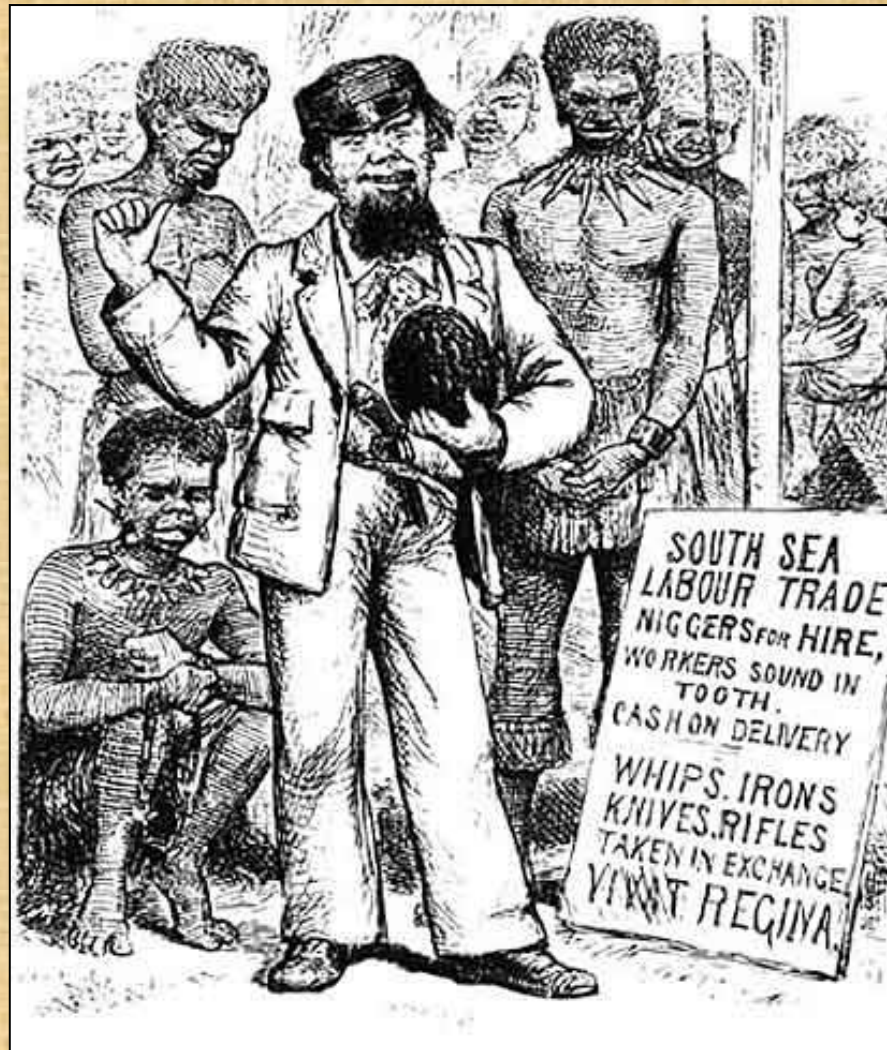


Image 19. The South Sea Labour Trade, The Bulletin, 30 April 1881, NLA

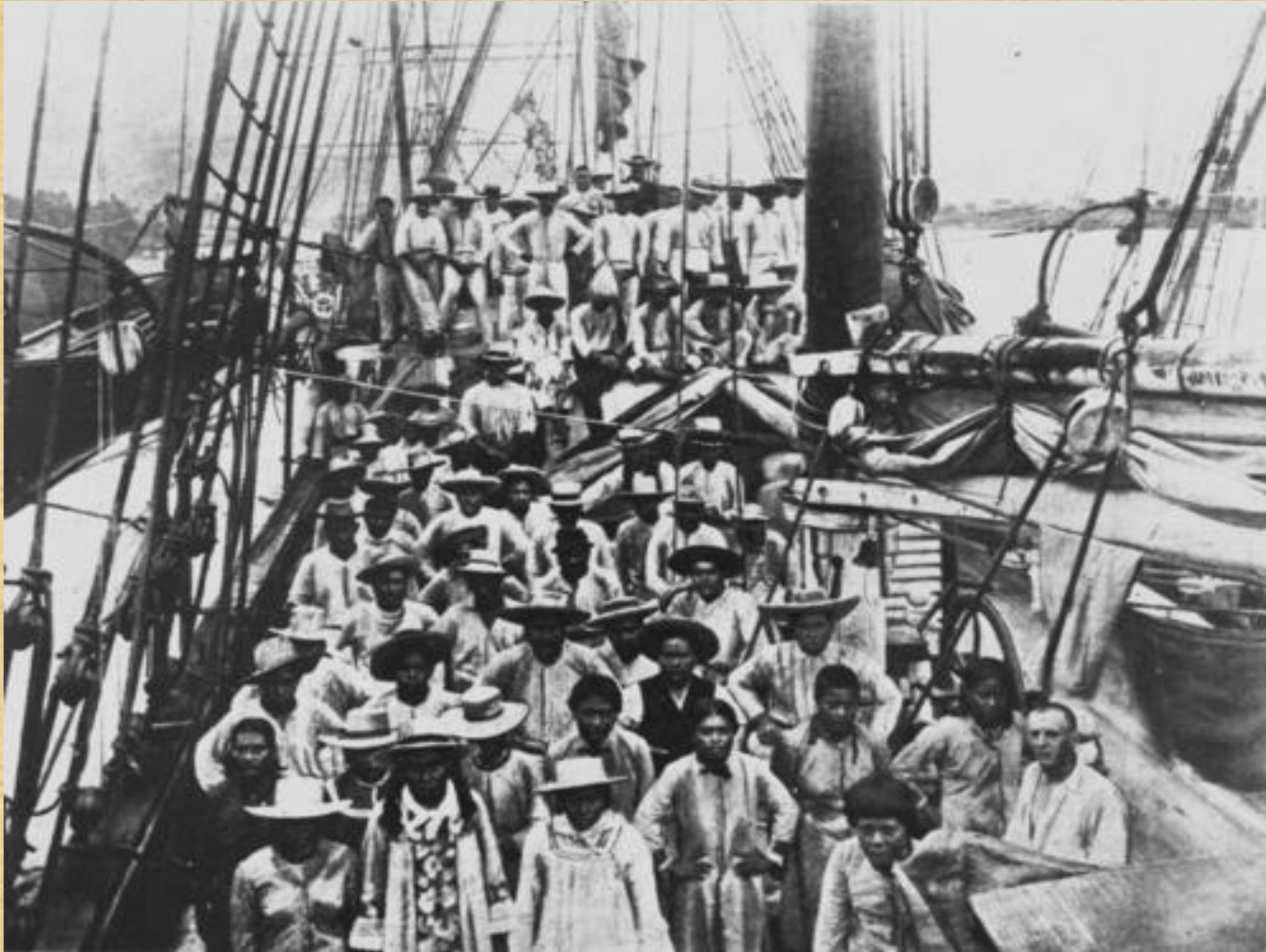


Image 20. Workers from the Solomons and Vanuatu arriving in Bundaberg, SLQ

3. The life of workers

NAME OF LABORER	NATIVE ISLAND	HANDS	DATE OF ENTRY	DATE WHEN SENT TO SOUTH SEA ISLANDS	REASON FOR LEAVING	REMARKS
10 Uoa	A pie	Lady Deling	16.3.96	16.9.97	2nd	16.9.97 16.9.97
58 Bugarawawa	Aoba	Papa	22.5.96	22.5.97	1st	22.5.96 22.5.97
53 Telly Tellymi	Malaya	Isa	12.10.96			
25 Leesamai	Ambre	Elegu	10.3.97			
7 Kaykayo	Malaya	Isa	13.5.98			
53 Luauyaga F	Aoba	hau	22.5.96	22.5.97	1st	22.5.96 22.5.97
76 Lado malle	Florida	Lavina	22.6.96	22.6.97	1st	22.6.96 22.6.97
7 Lom boy	Euomango	Lupadela	6.9.96	6.9.97	1st	6.9.96 6.9.97
5 Mille	Laua	Shumbid	28.11.96			
1 Lemi						

Image 21. Register of Pacific islanders employed at Pioneer Sugar Mill



Image 22. Pioneer Sugar Mill, unknown date, QSL

L'Engagiste s'oblige à fournir à l'Engagé :

- 1° LOGEMENT;
- 2° SOINS MÉDICAUX;
- 3° INHUMATION;

4° NOURRITURE EN NATURE	ou	Biscuit.....	0 500
		Mais moulu.....	0 600
	ou	et riz.....	0 400
		Riz seul.....	0 800
	ou	Riz.....	0 400
		et ignames, taros, etc.....	1 500
	ou	Poisson salé.....	0 400
		Poisson frais.....	0 250
	ou	Viande salée.....	0 425
		Viande fraîche.....	0 200
	ou	Légumes secs.....	0 425
		Sel.....	0 020

La ration sera de la moitié des quantités ci-dessus déterminées pour les immigrants au-dessous de dix ans.

5° SALAIRE MENSUEL.	En espèces et sans retenue pour les prestations en nature, payable par trimestre.	
6° VÊTEMENTS CONSISTANT EN.....	2 chemises, 2 pantalons, 2 mouchoirs par an.	pour hommes.
	2 chemises, 2 robes ou jupes, 4 mouchoirs par an.	pour femmes.

Repayement : Sommes à verser trimestriellement :

SYNDICAT DES GENS DE TRAVAIL

LIVRET N°

De
Père de
Né à

SIGNALEMENT :
Caste *Mis hille* Cheveux *Cheveux noirs*
Age *8 ans* Sourcils *noirs*
Taille d'un m. *1.60 m* Menton *arrondi*
Yeux *noirs* Barbe *'*
Nez *ordinaire* Teint *Cuivré*
Bouche *petite*

SIGNES PARTICULIERS :

Catarrhe du larynx. Peste dans le dos. L'entendement se perd et se déforme. Manque l'obligation de faire du bien.

Porté à la matricule générale sous le n° 2360.



DIRECTION DE L'INTÉRIEUR

2° BUREAU

SECTION IMMIGRATION

REÇU DE M *Wolke*
la somme de *Quinze francs 50 c.*
pour Bulletin et Livret du nommé *Lolole*
engagé à son service, n° *2360*

Nouméa, le *16 Juillet* 187

Le Commissaire de l'Immigration,

[Signature]

OBLIGATIONS DE TRAVAIL :

- 1° Nature du travail :
- 2° Durée du travail par jour :
- 3° Heures de repos par jour :

Chaque jour d'absence illégale au travail donnera lieu à la retenue de deux jours de solde.

Chaque jour d'absence au travail pour quelque autre cause que ce soit ne donnera lieu à la retenue que d'un jour seulement.

Les jours d'absence au travail pour cause d'exécution d'une peine infligée par l'autorité, soit administrative, soit judiciaire, doivent être remplacés par autant de journées complémentaires, lesquelles seront payées à l'engagé.

L'engagé, s'il est cultivateur, doit la corvée le dimanche jusqu'à neuf heures; s'il est domestique, il doit tout son temps.

La journée ordinaire de travail est de douze heures en été et de onze heures en hiver, y compris deux heures de repos.

Le

Image 23. Immigration booklet of Lolole, 8 years old, 1877, SANC



Image 24. Deforestation of land for cane planting, Farnborough, near Yeppoon, c. 1895



KANAKA WOMEN HOEING IN SUGAR CANE

Image 25. Women hoeing, Hambledon Plantation, Cairns, c. 1891



Image 26. Island women working at the Hambledon Plantation, Cairns, circa 1890



Image 27. Work on sugar cane plantations, 1884, QSA



Image 28. The new arrivals receive their rations and litter from a plantation store, c. 1890



Image 29.. Horses and islanders provided the driving power for the first sugar tramways. Hambledon near Cairns, c. 1892



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Image 33. Loading sugar cane on a barge for transport to the sugar mill, Bundaberg, circa 1896, John Oxley Library, SLQ



Image 34. Children playing at Innisfail, Queensland, circa 1902-1905

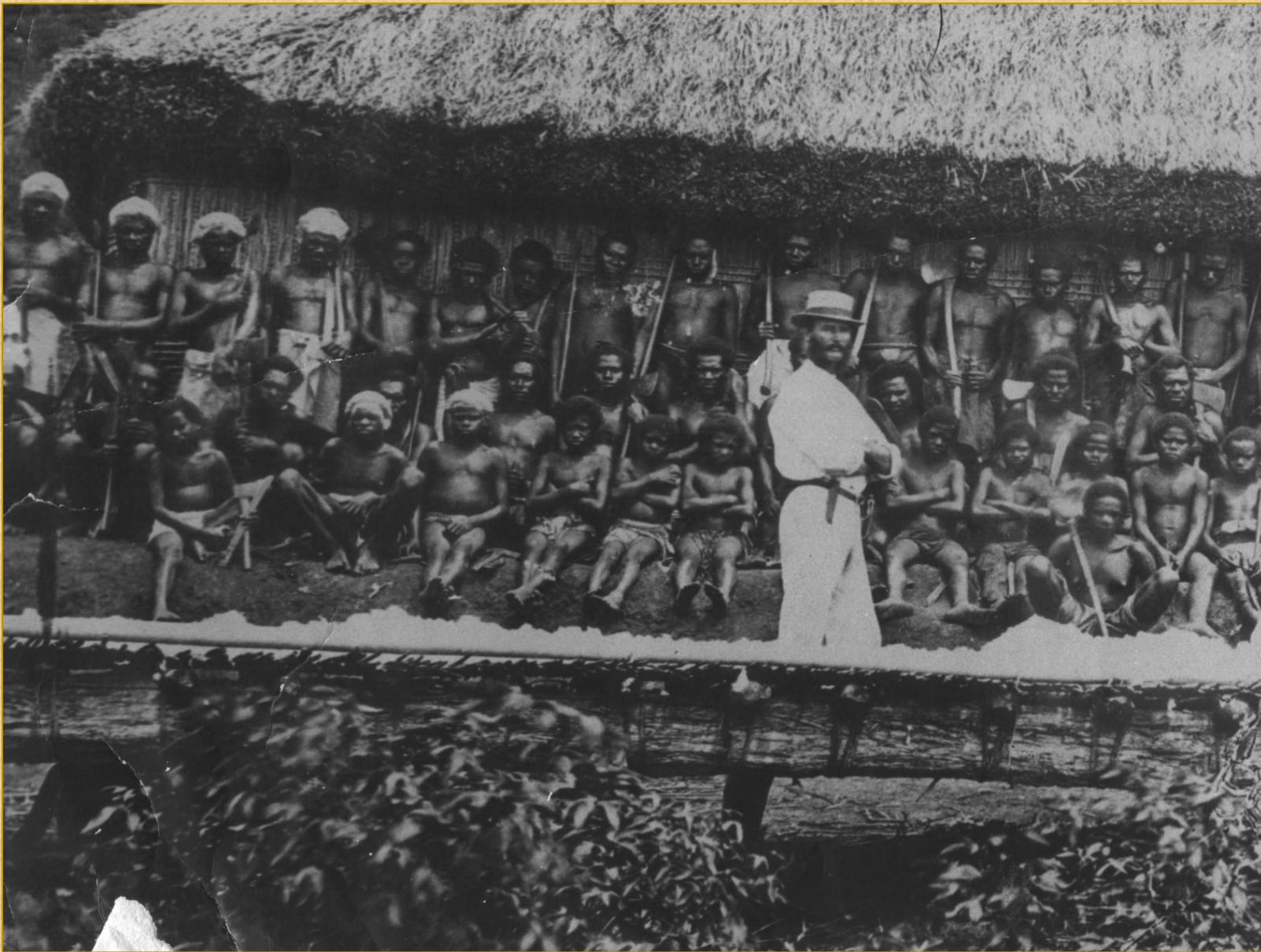


Image 35. Melanesian workers in a cotton plantation in Fiji, 1860s, Fiji Museum



Image 36. Labourers from the Solomons working in a copra plantation, Samoa, Alexander Turnbull Library

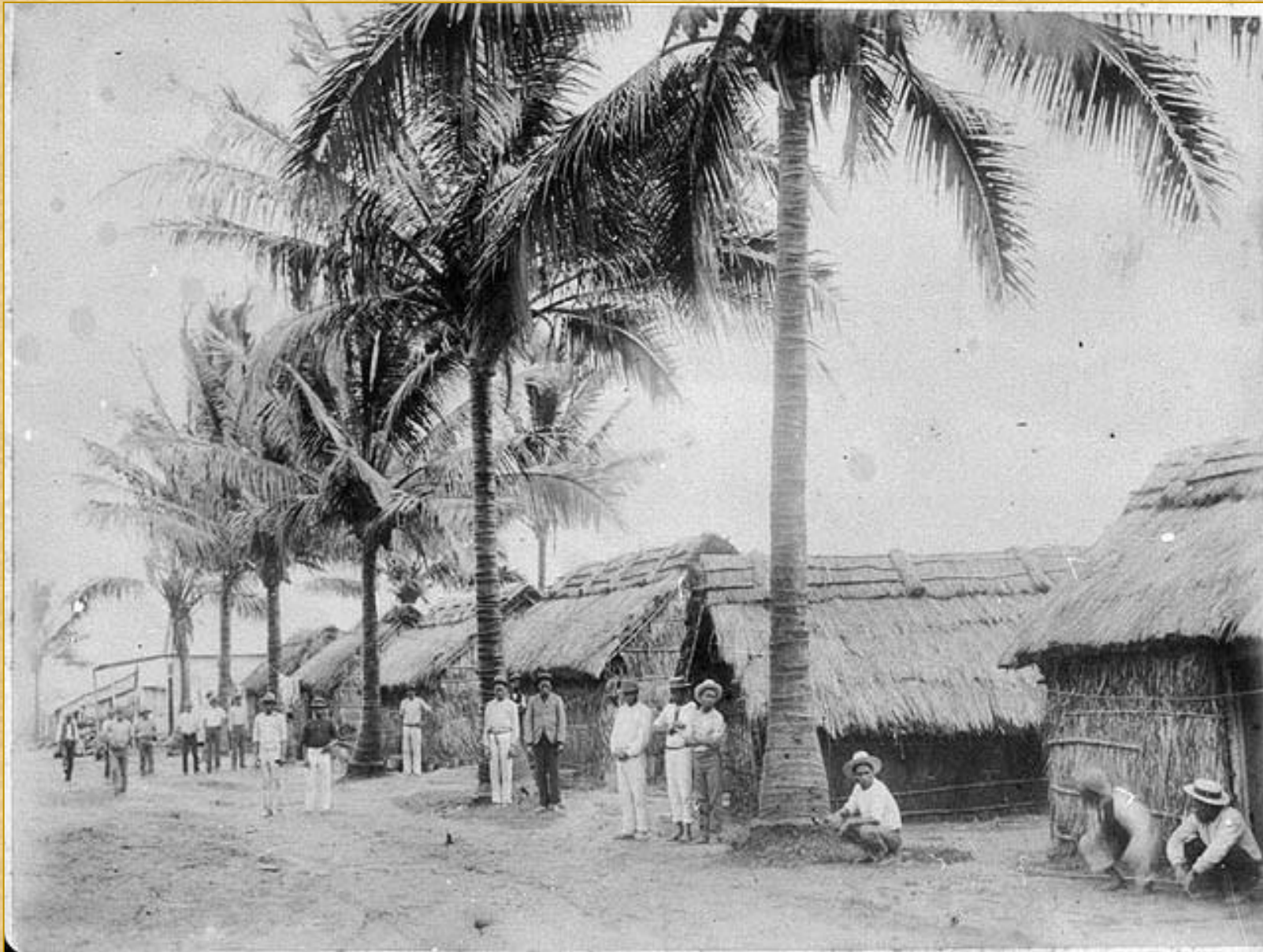


Image 37. Group of workers in front of their huts, Geraldton, Qld, Library of NSW



Image 38. Workers at Pioneer Sugar Mill, 1875, NLA



Image 39. Hambledon Mill, near Cairns, employing Melanesians, Japanese and Javanese, circa 1890, SLQ



Image 40. European foremen supervising the cane plantation near Mackay, circa 1878



Manager's house, with group of Manabhas.

Image 41. Group of South Sea islanders gathered in front of the director's house at Macknade Plantation, Ingham, circa 1881, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland



National Library of Australia

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Image 42. Melanesian workers on a pineapple plantation in Queensland, 1890s, NLA



Image 43. Sketch of South Sea workers in front of straw huts on a Queensland plantation, 1895, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland



Image 44. Workers' houses, Childers, 1904, SLQ



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Image 46. Sports day at a plantation in the Innisfail district in the 1890s, SLQ



Image 47. Sports day at a plantation in the Innisfail district in the 1890s, SLQ



Image 48. Workers from Efate on the Kerveguen plantation in Dumbea, around 1869, Kakou Collection, France



Image 49. New Hebridean labourers working on the "Sans-Culottes" mine in Thio, circa 1870, SLNSW



Image 50. Workers on the cobalt mine of Lebris Bay in Houailou, Postcard, Max Shekleton Collection



Image 51. New Hebridean workers in Noumea, Postcard, Max Shekleton Collection



On September 20, 1867, Matapou, Soupesale, Souarez and Tiver were sentenced to death for the murder of Louis Pascal, their recruiter, and his wife and two children and the worker Cambroux. They were guillotined publicly at Ducos on September 25, 1867.

Image 52. New Hebridean workers sentenced to death, 1867, SANC

4. Towards the end of the recruitment

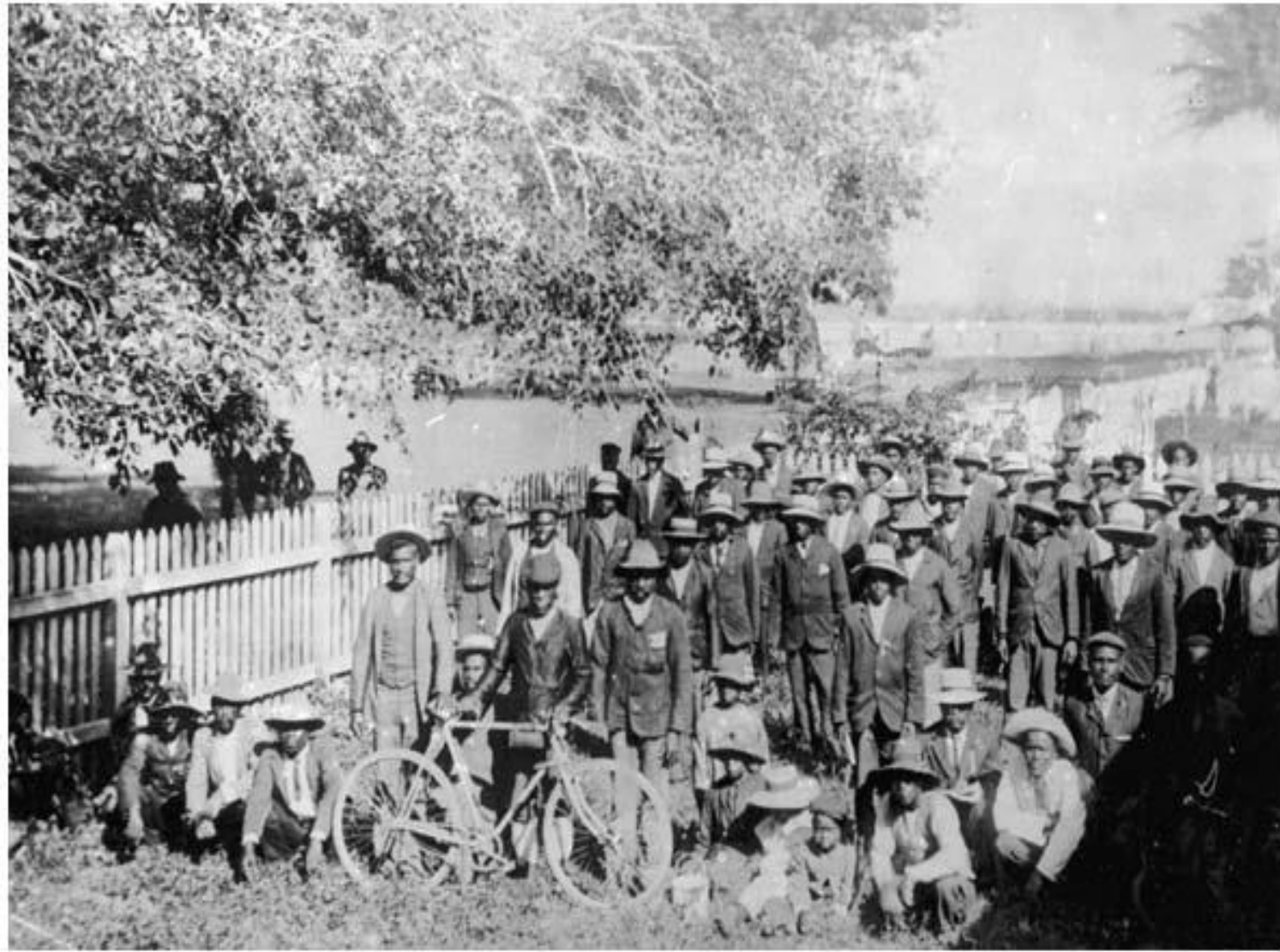


Image 53. Islanders awaiting deportation, Cairns, 1906, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland



Image 54. Islanders on the bridge of the Moresby, Queensland John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, 1906-1908



Image 55. Return, circa 1895, NLA

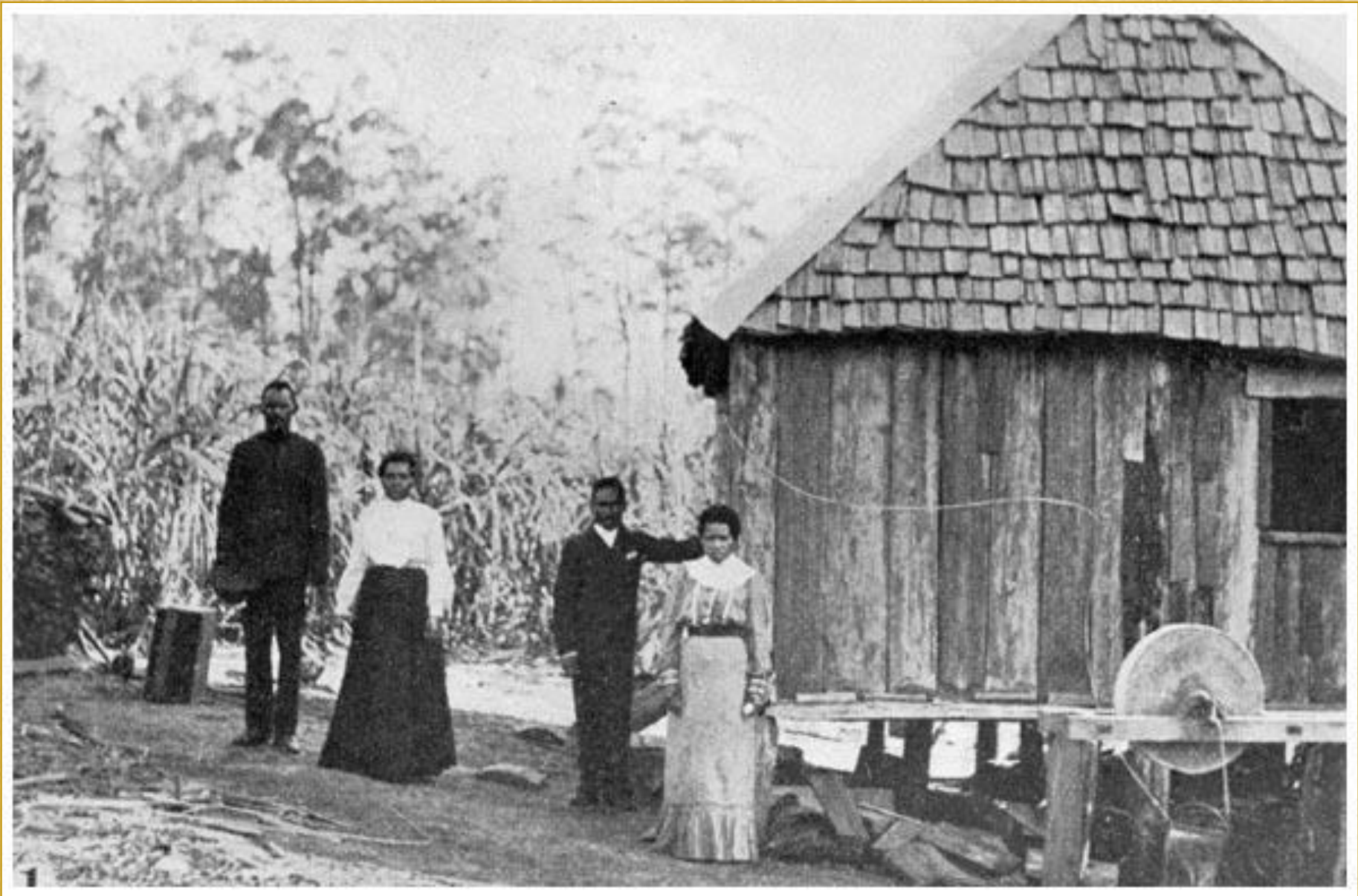


Image 56. Their own piece of Australia. Melanesians on their agricultural land near Woombye in 1906



Image 57. Christianised workers in Nambour, Queensland, 1906, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland